

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
DORAVILLE, GEORGIA

REPORT OF AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Francis Marion National Forest

STATE: South Carolina

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 414,700 acres

DATE: August 17, 1979

PERCENT COVERAGE: 50%^{1/}

AIRCRAFT: Cessna 182

CREW: R. F. Bassett, T. P. Russell, J. L. Wehry

REPORT PREPARED BY: J. L. Wehry

SURVEY OBJECTIVES: To detect any forest insect or disease problems in the Francis Marion National Forest. Special emphasis was given to searching for southern pine beetle infestations.

SURVEY RESULTS

Thirty-nine spots of red-topped pines ranging in size from one to thirty trees per spot were observed in the National Forest (see attached map). Most of the spots had five or fewer trees (Table 1).

CONCLUSIONS

Spots characteristic of southern pine beetle activity were observed in the Francis Marion National Forest, but the activity is currently at a low level. Greater tree mortality was observed in this survey than in the previous survey on April, 1979 (Aerial Survey Team Report No. 79-3-15). Drastic increases in southern pine beetle activity have been occurring in Piedmont areas of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Continued ground surveillance by National Forest personnel is recommended to detect possible southern pine beetle outbreaks in the Francis Marion National Forest.

^{1/} Using flight lines four miles apart and observing a one mile viewing width on both sides of aircraft.

For any additional information, contact

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Table 1. Summary of Aerial Survey Data - Francis Marion National Forest, South Carolina, August 17, 1979

Ownership	Infestation Size (# Trees)											
	1		2-5		6-10		11-20		21-30		30+	
	Spots:Trees		Spots:Trees		Spots:Trees		Spots:Trees		Spots:Trees		Spots:Trees	
National Forest	16	16	20	76	3	24	0	0	1	30	0	0